DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: It is due to the devaluation of the rupee.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: No, that is not the case, Sir. The rupee has been depreciated by about 20% to 25% and the foreign exchange earnings have gone up by almost 35%. I would say that certainly this has helped because it has made India a cheaper destination. But there have also been certain results because of the steps taken by the Tourism Ministry. So, I would like to say in relation to the civil aviation aspects that we have greatly liberalised air charters where it used to take sometimes almost six months for the sanctioning of an air charter. Now, we have put it under the DGCA and it takes only 24 hours. As a result, out of 2,03,000 tourists who came in December as many as 32,000 came by chartered flights. We had approximately 150 charter flights during the last three or four months whereas in the whole year normally we have only 125. We are expecting about 500 in the coming financial year. Now, all this is exerting its influence on foreign exchange earnings by the number of business coming in. So, it is not just happening by itself. To a large extent the credit goes to the Finance Minister because he has made India a cheaper destination. It is more attractive to the people. But there have some little inputs from the Tourism Ministry and Civil Aviation Ministry also.

Gas Linkage for Urban Power Station

*446. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA†:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that gas linkage for Utran/GEB 135 MW capacity has been sanctioned;

(b) whether it is also a fact that power is ready to go on streams but for non-availability of gas; and

(c) if so, what is being done to put Utran to go on stream?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chimanbhai Mehta.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two gas turbine units of 33 MW each are awaiting supply of gas on receipt of which they can be commissioned. The third gas turbine unit of 33 MW will be completed only during the year 1992-93.

(c) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas have been requested to make arrangements for supply of gas to utran from all alternative source near Utran.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, the Minister has admitted that gas was committed to Utran gas-based power house, turbines are also ready and it will be commissioned at any moment when the gas is available. Now, the gas was also co[illegible]ed. They did not do it in the air. Long since the power house was ready GEB has been presenting the case. The nodal Ministry is the Power Ministry. Between the Petroleum Ministry and the Energy Ministry, they have to sort it out. Why when the Petroleum Ministry have committed to supply the gas, the gas is not supplied to the turbines? The answer is that there is a shortage of gas. It is not a fact. They are diverting the gas for some other purposes, to some other parties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: My question is whether he has talked with the Petroleum Ministry. They must give the committed gas to these turbines. Gujarat is suffering loss. It was commited. How long will you take for implementing it?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Utran Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Project of 135 megawatt was sanctioned by the Planning Commission in March, 1990 for implementation is the State sector by Gujarat Electricity Board. The first gas turbine unit of, 33 MW is now likely to be synchronised. The techno-economic clearance is given when availability of gas is guranteed. Sir, gas is to be made

available by the Petroleum Ministry. When we get the assurance from the Petroleum Ministry, we clear the project. The situation today in Gandhar Gas field is, the total gas which was anticipated to be available is not available today. The Chief Minister of Gujarat has written to me a letter and he has also telephoned me that people in Gujarat are pleading for power; "Please supply gas so that these units can be synchronised." The Petroleum Ministry has replied that gas is not available from the Gandhar field. Therefore, we are trying to lay down a pipeline from Hazira to Utran which is situated at six kilometres' distance. The Hazira gas is committed to various projects. But those projects have not been synchronised. Therefore, gas can be made available after laying pipeline from Hazira to Utran. When the Gandhar field will be exploited and gas will be available then Utran pipeline will be laid and gas will be made available to them. For that I have written a letter to the Petroleum Minister, Shri B. Shankaranand. I have made a request to him in this connection. They have said that the Gujarat Electricity Board should have entered into an agreement. But they did not do that. Therefore, we could not fulfil the commitment that we had made to the Gujarat Electricity Board. (*Interruptions*) It is not my commitment. They have said that the Gujarat Electricity Board has not paid Rs. 80 crores. Therefore, we have not laid down the pipeline. We have spoken to the Petroleum Ministry. They have assured me that at the earliest gas will be made available to Utran project and units will be synchronised.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: I am very happy that certain important facts have come out. I know that the Gujarat Government will not be so lethargic in paying Rs. 20 crores because they are not able to commission 100 MW gas turbine which is ready since long. Therefore, it is between you and them to sort it out. Now you have admitted that gas is available from Hazira. It is being diverted for the people who are not using it. So only a six-kilometre pipeline is not a big issue. Therefore, whatever facts you have given, I am satisfied with them. Now would you please pursue the matter with the Gujarat Government? The Gujarat Government will be giving the money very soon. Rs. 20 crores is not a big amount if it is due.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Sir, as the hon. Member is worried for power in Gujarat, I am equally worried, I can assure him that I will request and pursue the matter. The pipeline from Hazira to Gandhar will be laid at the earliest and gas will be made available.

श्री सोमपाल: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में लिखा है कि प्रत्येक 33 मैगावाट वाले गैस टरबाइन के लिए गैस सप्लाई की प्रतीक्षा की जा रही है और गैस प्राप्त होने पर इसे चालू किया जाएगा। आपने यह नहीं लिखा कि कितने टरबाइन आपने पूरे कर लिए हैं। मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार 200 करोड़ रुपए का पूंजी व्यय इस परियोजना के ऊपर हो चुका है और इससे बनने वाली बिजली और उस बिजली से होने वाले लाभ तो कई सौ या कई हजार गुना होगा केवल 6 किलोमीटर की लाइन के लिए और जिसके लिए वचन दिया जा चुका है इस हाऊस में। उसके लिए गैस क्यों नहीं दी जा रही है जब कि बड़ी मात्रा में गैस व्यय हो रही है और दूसरी तरफ बेकार जा रही है, जहां इसका इस्तेमाल नहीं हो रहा है। यह कब तक होगा, यह स्पैसिफिकली बताइए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Social Audit of the Telecommunication and Postal Services

*447. SHRI KAPIL VARMA:
SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed any Committee for the social audit of the telecommunication and postal services and to look into the complaints of the public;

(b) if so, what are the names of the members of the Committee and what will be their functions and powers; and

(c) what measures are being taken by Government to improve the postal delivery system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The composition, powers and